

BOX ISSUE FEE

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Ken R. POWELL ) Group Art Unit: 3639  
Filed: February 1, 2000 )  
Serial No. 09/495,483 ) Examiner: S. Saliard  
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR )  
PROCESSING DISCOUNTS USING )  
PORTABLE UNITS CARRIED BY ) Allowed: 10/3/2006  
CUSTOMERS ) Confirmation No. 4924

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In a Statement of Reasons for Allowance mailed with the Notice of Allowance dated October 3, 2006, part of the text of the Examiner's Statement deviates from the claim text. For example the Examiner stated, "As per claims 12 and 67, the closest prior art of record taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a first computer including circuitry for sending first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an internet work<sup>1</sup> address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a

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<sup>1</sup> It is apparent that "internet work" here in the Examiner's statement should be "inter-network".

plurality of network addresses<sup>2</sup> . . . The specific allowable feature, which distinguishes the present invention over the prior art of record, is sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, wherein each first signal corresponds to a product and sending a memory signal from<sup>3</sup> a portable card responsive to a signal, corresponding to a product, received by a second computer." (Statement of Reasons for Allowance, page 3).

Although the Examiner attempted to comment on claim 12 and 67 together, and cited a "specific allowable feature," Applicant notes that inventions are defined by Applicant's claims, each considered separately, and as a whole.

For example, claim 67 recites, *inter alia*, a processing system for a second system including a first computer, the processing system comprising: circuitry, in the first computer, that sends first signals to the routing system, each first signal including an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path, wherein the second system further includes a plurality of home computers, responsive to the signal corresponding to a product, from one of the first signals received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable card.

The Examiner stated, "As per claims 34 and 74, the closest prior art of record taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest

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2 It is apparent that the text "to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses" does not appear in claim 67.

3 It is apparent that "from" in the Examiner's statement here should be "to".

sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an internet work<sup>4</sup> address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses,<sup>5</sup> . . . The specific allowable feature, which distinguishes the present invention over the prior art of record, is sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each signal corresponding to a product.” (Statement of Reasons for Allowance, page 4).

Although the Examiner attempted to comment on claim 34 and 74 together, and cited a “specific allowable feature,” Applicant notes that inventions are defined by Applicant's claims, each considered separately, and as a whole.

Claim 34 recites, *inter alia*, sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals.

Claim 74 recites, *inter alia*, sending, from a first computer, a first signal to the routing system, the first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals.

The prior art does not teach or suggest any of the recited interrelations of the recited structures or acts, set forth in any of Applicant's various claims.

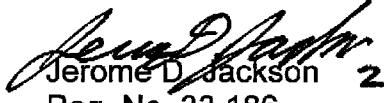
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4 It is apparent that “internet work” here in the Examiner's statement should be “inter-network”.

5 It is apparent the text “to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses” appears in neither claim 34 nor claim 74.

If there are any fees required for consideration of this document, or for any other reason, please charge such fees to the undersigned attorney's Deposit Account No. 10-0077.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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